

between the different kinds of fuels that are employed.

Sir, the question therefore arises as to whether there is really great hardship upon that part of the State where lower rate prevailed. Sir, I should feel that they have enjoyed the privilege of low rate for so long a time and they should not grudge paying a little higher while other citizens or citizens from other parts of the State have been paying higher rate. I cannot understand the force of the criticisms that have been levelled by saying that the poor man is going to be put to trouble. When a truck is run with the use of petrol and when the same thing is run with the use of diesel oil, the expenses would be less in this latter case and particularly when the Government is in need of revenue, it would be the proper thing to tax the margin of profit which is high in the case of diesel oil vehicles and thereby try to equalise. So, far from being inequitable or unjust, Sir, I feel by doing this, we are not allowing any person who is making a higher margin of profit to go without paying his due share of duty to the Government and if this is sought to be done by introducing this Bill, it is not adding any hardship to anybody.

Sir, with regard to the use of vehicles by the poor man, I really do not understand the criticism because the poor man uses the petrol driven buses as much as anybody else and if he does not travel, he does not use either. If we take the overall picture, Sir, I should feel that it is the rich man who is taxed much more because the chances of the rich man availing himself of these transport vehicles compared to the poor man, will stand in the ratio of perhaps 90 : 10.

It was also asked whether I can possibly give exact figures with regard to the total quantity. Sir, it is a rather difficult question to answer because figures will have to be gathered from the five integrating areas. A overall picture has been taken of the problem as it stands today and it is only after the Government was satisfied that it was a fair and equitable measure and that uniformity should be evolved that this Bill has been brought in. I am

sure that Hon'ble Members will be satisfied with the explanation which I have given and will certainly withdraw their opposition to this measure.

Sri M. C. NARASIMHAN.—Does the Hon'ble Minister assure that the passenger rates will not be increased ?

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—I believe it would be so, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is :

“That the Mysore Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Bill, 1957, be considered.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The Bill will now be read clause by clause. As there are no amendments, I will put all the clauses to the House.

The question is :

“That clauses 2 to 29, both inclusive, clause 1 the Title and Preamble stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 29, clause 1, the Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Motion to pass.

Sri B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA.—Sir, I move :

“That the Mysore Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Bill, 1957 be passed.”

Mr. SPEAKER.—The question is :

“That the Mysore Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Bill, 1957, be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

Minister's Statement

Re. Excise Sales

Sri M. MOHAMED ALI (Minister for Excise).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day, Hon'ble Sri Muckannappa stated on the floor of the Assembly that there was a fall of forty to fifty lakhs of rupees in the Excise revenue this year and there was criticism in regard to the

(SRI M. MOHAMED ALI)
procedure followed at the Excise sales. The statement of the member needs correction...

Sri B. K. PUTTARAMIYA (Channapatna).—Sir, I would like to know the procedure on which the Hon'ble Minister is speaking.

Mr. SPEAKER.—He is now asking for permission to make a statement.

Sri M. MOHAMED ALI.—The statement made by the Hon'ble Member is misleading. As the Hon'ble Member's statement is not correct in matters pertaining to Government revenue which is of prime importance, Government feels it very necessary to give a correct account of the Excise sales this year. I therefore request the Hon'ble Speaker to grant me permission to make a statement to give an account of excise sales.

Mr. SPEAKER.—It may be made.

Sri M. MOHAMED ALI.—The Excise Sales for the year 1957-58...

Sri B. K. PUTTARAMIYA.—Is it permissible to read in the House?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Yes. The Ministers can read their statements, but the members cannot.

Sri M. MOHAMED ALI.—The Excise Sales for the year 1957-58 were conducted as usual and as per Rules prescribed. Prior to the auction sales tenders were called for, to ascertain the ruling trends. It seems that there was some objection about calling for tenders prior to the auction sales. This is not a new practice and in fact it has been adopted since a long time. Tender system will, after all, amount to a voluntary offer and even after the auctions, it is open to the contractors to give higher bids, as calling for tenders prior to the auction sales does not forbid the contractors from giving higher offers. So the practice adopted since a long time and this year, does in no way materially affect the Excise Rentals. It only depends upon the desire of the contractors who even after sales want to have the Excise Contracts in their names. This year there was no such offer, after the Excise Sales. It appears that there is a suggestion from some quarters that the shops should have been sold individually and not in

groups, for the entire Bangalore City, Civil Area and the taluks.

Ever since, there has been a practice to club all the shops in Bangalore City and taluks. As per Rules it was ascertained from all the bidders at the beginning of the sales whether they wanted auction of individual shops or in groups but no body wished for auctioning of individual shops. Nobody came forth even before the confirmation of sales by the competent authority, to auction individual shops. Even to this day no representation was made to set aside the auction of the clubbed shops and to re-auction the same individually. So it was risky to experiment on a new system, as it involves the question of revenue. The experience of all the States in India ever since the excise duty was levied, supports the auction of shops in groups. This policy involves considerations of administrative conveniences and the question of realising the rentals in any easy and sure manner. So far as the Bangalore group of shops are concerned there was a representation for permitting tapping of trees in dry districts, which has been disallowed, irrespective of its financial consequences. The contractors will have to tap trees in far-off places *viz.*, Chamarajanagar and Nanjangud Taluks, which are about 140 miles (on the average) from Bangalore. This involves heavy transport charges. If individual shops had been sold then there would have been greater risk, because it would not have been possible for the small contractor or shop vendor to make arrangements for transporting toddy over long distances. The small contractors would not have been able to pay more to Government in the shape of rentals, as they have to incur top-heavy expenditure, and so the Government would have suffered even greater loss. Anyhow toddy, arrack and other shops were put up for sale separately in the sales of Mysore City this year, but it was not successful and so the shops were clubbed. As the shops were grouped always, it is doubtful whether small contractors exist in Bangalore City.

Of course this year, the rentals for the Bangalore groups of shops is low

when compared with the rentals for the previous year, but excise rentals will necessarily vary and fluctuate from year to year. It is surprising to see that there was an abnormal rise in the rentals of Bangalore groups of shops for the year 1956-57, when compared to any of the previous years. The comparative figures for the previous five years are as under :—

		Rs.
1952-53	...	55,12,416
1953-54	...	48,31,800
1954-55	...	46,36,488
1955-56	...	51,86,520
1956-57	...	60,34,980
1957-58	...	51,39,300

The question of rentals ought to be judged with reference to the averages obtained for the previous years. The rentals secured for the next year in the recent sales are favourable when compared with the averages for 3 years and even for 5 years. The rentals secured for 1957-58 fall short of the same for the year 1956-57 by Rs. 8,83,428. They are at the same time higher than the average rentals for 3 years from 1953-54 to 1955-56 by Rs. 9,08,861. Comparative figures are noted below for the entire old Mysore State.

		Rs.
1953-54	...	1,02,13,698
1954-55	...	1,03,27,404
1955-56	...	1,07,81,016

In the year 1956-57, there was an abnormal rise i.e., the rentals went up to Rs. 1,22,33,004, and this cannot be made a basis to calculate profit or loss. Any how the total rental secured in this year's sale is Rs. 1,13,49,576, and this cannot be deemed to be unsatisfactory.

There are so many factors also, which are to be considered when examining the question of excise sales. Last year due to failure of crops and shooting up of prices of foodgrains, it was not a prosperous year, and the rentals would naturally decrease in the year following such conditions. Moreover the present situation does not indicate that this will be a prosperous year, consequent on the conditions of the previous year.

As the declared policy of the Government is to introduce total prohibition all over the State, Excise field is no enterprise for fresh contractors and has minimised the competition.

*ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಕೆ. ಪುಟ್ಟರಾಮಯ್ಯ (ಚನ್ನಪಟ್ಟಣ).— ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಈ ಸಭೆಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿವಸಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಹೇಳಿದ್ದು ಸರಿ ಆಗಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲದಿರುವ ಕಾಲವನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದರಿಂದ ಜನಾಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮನಸ್ಸು ದೊರೆಯದೇ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು ಸರಿಯೇ, ಅಲ್ಲವೆ ಎಂಬುದನ್ನು ನೋಡಿ ಒಂದು ಸತ್ಯಂಪ್ರದಾಯ ಬೆಳೆಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ತೋರುತ್ತದೆ.

5 P. M.

ಅವರು ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ನಾವು ಸರಿ ಎಂದೂ ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು, ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ ಎಂದೂ ಹೇಳಬಹುದು. ಆದರೆ ಆ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಕಾಂಟ್ರಾಡಿಕ್ಟ್ ಮಾಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ನಮಗೆ ಒಂದು ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕೊಡದೆ ಇಂತಹ ಕೊನೆಯ ಗಳಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಒಂದು ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಎರಡನೆಯ ಸಾರಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಶ್ರೀಮಾನ್ ವಿರೇಣ್ಣ ಗೌಡರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಭಾಷಣದ ಚರ್ಚೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾತನಾಡುವಾಗ ಕೊನೆಯ ಗಳಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜವಾಬು ಹೇಳಿದಾಗ ವಿರೋಧಪಕ್ಷದ ಸದಸ್ಯರಿಗೆ ಅಗಲೂ ಮಾತನಾಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿಲ್ಲ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಅವರು ಹೇಳಿದ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೊನೆಯಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ನಾವು ಹೇಳಬೇಕಾದುದು ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಇದೆ. ಎಕ್ಸೈಜು ಡಿವ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಬರುವಾಗ ನಮ್ಮ ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಅವರು ಕೇಳುವುದಕ್ಕೂ ನಾವು ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೂ ತಯಾರಾಗಿರುವಾಗ ಅಂತಹ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಅವಕಾಶ ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ ಇಂತಹ ಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು. ಈ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಸಂಪ್ರದಾಯವನ್ನು ಅನುಸರಿಸುವುದು ಒಳ್ಳೆಯದು ಎಂದು ನಾನು ತಮ್ಮ ಮೂಲಕ ಅವರನ್ನು ಪ್ರಾರ್ಥಿಸುತ್ತೇನೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಕೆ. ರಾಜಯ್ಯ ಸೆಟ್ಟಿ (ಚಿಕ್ಕನಾಯಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ).—ಈಗ ಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು “ಚಂಡರ್ ಕಾರ್ ಫಾರ್” ಎಂದು ಹೇಳಿದರಲ್ಲಾ ಅದು ಯಾವುದು? ಅದರ ವಿವರಗಳೇನು?

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು.—ಆ ವಿಷಯ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಚರ್ಚೆಗೆ ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಒಂದು ಸಲಹೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

Sri M. RAMAPPA (Harihar).—Can we get a copy of the statement?

Mr. SPEAKER.—In the first place I request the Hon'ble Minister concerned to place a copy of the statement on the Table of the House and the statement will then be circulated to all the members. It will be posted to the home addresses of members and therefore there will be no difficulty.

So far as the point raised by Sri B. K. Puttaramiya is concerned, when a

(MR. SPEAKER.)

request was made by the Hon'ble Minister concerned to make a statement, I agreed because we can take up the whole question and discuss it on some other occasion. Otherwise, I would not have allowed without giving an opportunity to the Hon'ble Members to discuss it.

Business of the House.

MR. SPEAKER.—Before we rise I have got an announcement to make. I have recognised Sri K. Kenchappa as the Leader of the Opposition since more than 22 persons have agreed to work under him—under the guidance of the P.S.P. Party.

(Claps by an Hon'ble Member)

MR. SPEAKER.—Such things are not allowed in any Assembly.

I have reserved certain accommodation for the members of the party in power and also for the party in opposition. The Conference Hall is made available to the Congress Party and they will work there. Till now they were working in the Residency and I thought they should not do that. Therefore, I have reserved the Conference Hall for the members of the party in power and rooms Nos. 101 and 101-A for the members of the Opposition Party. Henceforward my idea is that the Legislature should work as smoothly as possible and I should not be called upon not only to perform the duties of the Speaker but as a Whip of either the party in power or the party in opposition. There has also been a lot of trouble and many of the Hon'ble Members misunderstood me when they

were called upon to make their remarks in the House. They could not understand how difficult it was to give opportunity to all the members. I have tried to be just as far as possible. I have tried to see that whoever that had taken part in the debate on the Governor's Address was not given a chance again, as far as possible, to speak on the Budget. Anyhow more members have spoken from the Opposition side than from the Treasury Benches. I am going to give one more day for general discussion on the Budget. I do not mind sitting one hour more on that day. I am also just thinking whether I should give 4½ hours for discussion on the Budget on the day we meet here. It is also under my consideration whether we can sit both in the morning and evening, if possible, so that the members would be satisfied.

The House will now stand adjourned. Since it is going to be adjourned, elections to the various Committees will be postponed. A fresh programme will be drawn up after consultation with the Leader of the House and the members will be intimated. The House will meet on the 12th July.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER.—Members have sent in a number of questions during this session. They have not come up. Should we send them again?

MR. SPEAKER.—No question lapses. They survive and I am requesting the Government to expedite answers.

The House will now stand adjourned and meet again on the 12th July

The House adjourned at Six Minutes past Five of the Clock to meet again on the 12th July, 1957.